

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM,

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today is May 13. The last time the leadership of the House promised a vote on campaign finance reform they guaranteed a vote before May 15. That leaves one more legislative day left to consider this important issue. Unfortunately it appears that this date will pass without a debate and vote on campaign finance reform. It is one more broken promise by the leadership of the House on this issue.

We have now heard that debate may begin next week and a vote will come the first week in June. I will believe it when I see it. It is painfully clear that the leadership will do anything in their power to kill finance reform. The leadership should not, however, believe that this issue will go away. Tremendous momentum is building across this country in favor of campaign finance reform. I for one will use the extra time between now and June to let the public know who is behind the continued delay in allowing a vote on campaign finance reform.

It will not be me or other members of Congress who will keep the pressure on the leadership to allow a vote, it will ultimately be the public. I hope that the leadership of this House will listen to the demands of the citizens of this nation and allow a vote on campaign finance reform.

DEMOCRATS ON CHAIRMAN BURTON'S COMMITTEE JUSTIFIED IN REFUSING TO VOTE FOR IMMUNITY

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, several hours ago, the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee gave a vote of no confidence to the campaign finance investigation being headed by my friend Chairman DAN BURTON of Indiana. The Committee declined to immunize four witnesses and haul them before his Committee. As a past Chairman of that Committee, I can tell you that what the Committee did today was the only course of action they could take.

My democratic colleagues were not asking for much. They simply wanted procedures for subpoenas that would give them a chance to object and force a Committee vote before such subpoenas could be issued. They were willing to negotiate, but Chairman BURTON refused.

I'm sorry to say this, but Chairman BURTON's recent actions have discredited the major oversight committee of the Congress, which is supposed to set the example for fair investigative procedure.

Never in my tenure, not once, as Chairman of that committee, did the minority complain that a major investigation was unfair, or conducted without their full involvement.

Consider the causes for embarrassment:

More than 600 subpoenas issued without ever having one Committee vote or the involvement of members of the Committee;

A stubborn refusal to subpoena any witnesses requested by the Democratic members of the Committee;

A tasteless decision to release the private conversations between Mr. Hubbell and his wife that had no connection to the subject that the Committee was investigating;

The misleading editing of the tape transcripts, which should have never been released in the first place, forcing a public rebuke by the Speaker for the embarrassment caused to the House of Representatives;

The growing evidence that the Committee may be improperly, and perhaps illegally, coordinating its investigation with that of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, which by federal law is supposed to remain secret.

The failure of the Oversight Committee's investigation carries an important lesson for all of us in Congress. The concerns of every member of a committee—especially an investigative committee—cannot be ignored or shunted aside by procedural maneuvers. I am hopeful that my colleagues will keep these lessons in mind as we move forward from the ashes of the Burton investigation.

50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE FOR STUYVESANT FALLS VFW POST 9593

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commemorate the anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post number 9593. This post, I am proud to say, is based in Stuyvesant Falls, New York of my congressional district, and is celebrating a remarkable 50th year in existence.

The V.F.W., Mr. Speaker, has been an organization of exceptional merit and service to the needs of many veterans. It is only appropriate that those brave men and women who placed themselves in harms way overseas be represented by such an able organization. The member of Post 9593 have been receiving just such outstanding service for 50 years now. And beyond that, they have been providing their fellow veterans, their loved ones, and their community with service themselves as active members of an active Post. It is comforting to know that those who served the needs of our country and fought for the principles and ideals of America all over the globe can depend on the support of an organization like Post 9593 back home in upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, the service of Post 9593 in Stuyvesant Falls is worthy of significant recognition. This Post, and other like it, are the reason I fought so hard to attain Department level status for Veterans' Affairs. When Ronald Readon signed that legislation into law, veterans were finally afforded the degree of national consideration they deserve. The efforts of V.F.W. Posts like this one, Mr. Speaker, having served the needs of veterans since 1948, assured veterans the assistance and recognition they deserved prior to approval of this government department and continue to encourage fair consideration of veterans' issues.

In addition Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the members of Post 9593 take great pride in

their service to country and in the existence and activities of their distinguished Post. In fact, their VFW Post has been honored with the distinction that it is one of only a few that has consistently maintained 100 percent membership every year for its entire 50 year history. That is the sort of pride and dedication that marks an organization comprised of brave soldiers who have served their country and community faithfully and honorably. They have made us all proud. For all of this, Mr. Speaker, we owe Post 9593 a tremendous debt of gratitude and I ask that all members of the House rise with me in tribute to each and every brave veteran who has comprised the 50 year history of this Post.

SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT DISCUSSES THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, no American Administration since the presidency of Harry Truman has been as supportive of Israel as has our current Administration. The President is personally engaged and committed to the safety and security of the state of Israel, and he has affirmed on many occasions—most recently in a letter I received from him dated May 5th—that our nation's unshakable support for Israel's security "has been and will continue to be a central feature of the U.S.-Israeli relationship and a guiding principle for this Administration's role in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process." He noted that "fighting terrorism is not optional; it is a basic premise of the peace process."

Our distinguished Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, has personally played a critical role in working to move along the peace process, and she has devoted a great deal of time, effort, and energy to make meaningful progress. Our Secretary of State's personal intellectual and emotional commitment to move the peace process forward is one of the principal reasons for the progress that has been made.

Mr. Speaker, in the past several days, there has been considerable heat, but little light on the status of negotiations and the role of the United States in that process. Secretary Albright yesterday spoke at the National Press Club on the "Middle East Peace Process" and outlined the framework and the focus of the Administration's policy in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, because of the acrimony and misconceptions that have been magnified in the press, I think it is important for my colleagues to see for themselves first hand a concise and coherent discussion of our policy. I submit Secretary Albright's address at the National Press Club to be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give thoughtful attention to her excellent remarks.

## THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

(Delivered by Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright at the National Press Club)

Thank you very much. I am very pleased to be here.

Two weeks ago, before departing for Asia and talks in London on the Middle East, I attended a dinner sponsored by Seeds of Peace.